

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Original): A vehicle surroundings monitoring apparatus, comprising:

frontal information detecting means for detecting at least solid object information and traveling road information in front of an own vehicle;

preceding vehicle trace calculating means for calculating a trace of a preceding vehicle from past data of said preceding vehicle;

first own traveling path calculating means for calculating a first traveling path of said own vehicle based on said traveling road information;

second own traveling path calculating means for calculating a second traveling path of said own vehicle based on said trace of said preceding vehicle; and

final own traveling path calculating means for calculating a final traveling path of said own vehicle based on said first traveling path and said second traveling path.

Claim 2 (Canceled)

Claim 3 (Original): A vehicle surroundings monitoring apparatus, comprising:

frontal information detecting means for detecting at least solid object information and traveling road information in front of an own vehicle;

preceding vehicle trace calculating means for calculating a trace of a preceding vehicle from past data of said preceding vehicle;

first own traveling path calculating means for calculating a first traveling path of said own vehicle based on said traveling road information;

second own traveling path calculating means for calculating a second traveling path of said own vehicle based on said trace of said preceding vehicle;

third own traveling path calculating means for calculating a third traveling path of said own vehicle based on traveling conditions of said own vehicle; and

final own traveling path calculating means for calculating a final traveling path of said own vehicle based on said first traveling path, said second traveling path and said third traveling path.

Claim 4 (Original): A vehicle surroundings monitoring apparatus, comprising:

frontal information detecting means for detecting at least solid object information and traveling road information in front of an own vehicle;

preceding vehicle trace calculating means for calculating a trace of a preceding vehicle from past data of said preceding vehicle;

first own traveling path calculating means for calculating a first traveling path of said own vehicle based on said traveling road information;

second own traveling path calculating means for calculating a second traveling path of said own vehicle based on said trace of said preceding vehicle;

third own traveling path calculating means for calculating a third traveling path of said own vehicle based on traveling conditions of said own vehicle;

fourth own traveling path calculating means for calculating a fourth traveling path of said own vehicle based on said first own traveling path and said third own traveling path; and

final own traveling path calculating means for calculating a final traveling path of said own vehicle based on said fourth traveling path and said second traveling path when a preestablished condition is satisfied.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The vehicle surroundings monitoring apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said preestablished condition is that the preceding vehicle exists and there is no possibility of ~~evacuation~~ a lane change of said preceding vehicle and said own vehicle does not make a turn.

Claim 6 (Canceled)

Claim 7 (Original): The vehicle surroundings monitoring apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said traveling conditions include at least a yaw rate of said own vehicle.

Claim 8 (Original): The vehicle surroundings monitoring apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said traveling conditions include at least a yaw rate of said own vehicle.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): A traveling control system for controlling a traveling of an own vehicle at least based on said final own traveling path calculated by said vehicle surroundings monitoring apparatus ~~described~~ recited in claim 1.

Claim 19 (Canceled)

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): A traveling control system for controlling a traveling of an own vehicle at least based on said final own traveling path calculated by said vehicle surroundings monitoring apparatus ~~described~~ recited in claim 3.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): A traveling control system for controlling a traveling of an own vehicle at least based on said final own traveling path calculated by said vehicle surroundings monitoring apparatus ~~described~~ recited in claim 4.